

## South King County Projects Update

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### In this issue:

- South King County traffic closures this week
- Near-record rains slow I-5 construction project progress
- State Route 509 extension will provide critical alternative to I-5
- Highway advisory radio updates

## South King County traffic closures this week

### Interstate 5

- The right lane of southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320<sup>th</sup> will be closed from 3 a.m. Thursday morning (Jan. 19) until 1 p.m. Thursday afternoon for pothole repairs. All other southbound lanes on this section of I-5 will be open during the right-lane closure.
- Expect weekday closures of the left lane of southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320<sup>th</sup> from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for paving and median access for construction vehicles.
- Expect weeknight closures of the left lane in each direction of I-5 from S. 320<sup>th</sup> to the Pierce County line for concrete paving, weather permitting. The southbound lane may be closed from 8 p.m. to 11 a.m.; the northbound lane from 7 p.m. to 5 a.m.

## Near-record rains slow I-5 construction project progress

Four weeks of consecutive rainy days have bogged down the progress of building new lanes on I-5 in Federal Way. The weather is preventing crews from placing concrete pavement on the [I-5 HOV Widening Project](#) between S. 320<sup>th</sup> and the Pierce County line. The concrete cannot set properly in such wet conditions. However, we're continuing with work that can be done regardless of the weather: widening the I-5 bridges over S. 336<sup>th</sup> Street and SR 18. Crews have been setting scaffolding and placing and tying steel rebar at these locations.

Crews are also struggling to schedule paving and striping for the [I-5 – S. 317<sup>th</sup> HOV Direct Access Project](#). We took advantage of the one dry day in the past week, Sunday, and were able to pour concrete for the east half of the approach slab to the new S. 317<sup>th</sup> bridge. This is the area where the new HOV ramps in the median connect to the bridge. Crews have also been out installing signs and guardrail.

We're paving during any breaks in the rain, but this work usually requires a twelve-hour window of dry weather. And we need consecutive days of dry weather to stripe the pavement. To keep drivers safe, we need to stripe all the lanes at once so the lanes aren't left in a confusing configuration. We're doing everything we can to complete the work as quickly as possible and open the new ramps to traffic.

## State Route 509 extension will provide critical alternative to I-5

State Route 509 currently ends at the S. 188<sup>th</sup> Street interchange, near the south end of Sea-Tac Airport. The [I-5 - SR 509 - Freight and Congestion Relief Project](#) will complete the SR 509 corridor by building over three miles of new six-lane freeway to connect SR 509 to I-5 near S. 216<sup>th</sup>. In this project we will also build new I-5 lanes and improvements, a south airport access roadway, and more. Through this project we aim to:

- reduce congestion on I-5
- make the roadways safer
- save you up to 12 minutes in travel time between Seattle and Tacoma
- provide a direct route for freight between ports and industrial areas

The SR 509 project received \$35 million from the 2003 gas tax ([Nickel funding](#)) and \$30 million from the 2005 gas tax ([Partnership funding](#)). We're currently purchasing property in the project area and completing the project design. However, we need more than \$800 million in additional funding to complete the property purchases and to build the project. You can see [photos and simulations](#) and much more on our project Web page.

## Highway advisory radio updates

Tune your radio to 1520 AM to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail [Laura Johnson](#).

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